

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I was absent for legislative business conducted after 3 p.m. on October 31, 2007, due to a family matter that required my personal attention. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 1025 and 1026.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 1025, final passage of H.R. 3920, the Trade Adjustment and Assistance Act of 2007.

In addition, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 1026, a motion to instruct conferees to H.R. 3043, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on H.R. 3043:

Mr. OBEY, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. DeLAURO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LEE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Messrs. RYAN of Ohio, MURTHA, EDWARDS, WALSH of New York, REGULA, PETERSON of Pennsylvania, WELDON of Florida, SIMPSON, REHBERG, YOUNG of Florida, WICKER, and LEWIS of California.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Armed Services:

OCTOBER 31, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This letter is to advise you that, effective today, I am resigning my seat on the House Armed Services Committee. I look forward to resuming my service on the Armed Services Committee when my term on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence expires. I understand that I will retain my seniority on Armed Services for the duration of my leave. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

JAMES R. LANGEVIN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

138 DAYS, NO VETERANS BILL

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I come here today to continue my call on the leadership to move the Veterans appropriations bill forward.

As of today, we have gone 138 days in this Chamber with no action, no plan of action, and more importantly, no veterans bill. I am concerned that we have a \$4.4 billion increase in veterans health care collecting dust on someone's desk in this very building. I suspect that there are many people here

today and watching at home who are also troubled as well.

I'm proud that the veterans issues are not partisan. They never should be. I am also proud to be a member of a bipartisan Veterans Committee. I am not proud, however, that we have gone this long into the year without a single appropriations bill.

I call on the leadership of the House to get on the stick, get past whatever reason or strategy that is holding this important bill up, and get a clean bill to the President so we can deliver this money to these heroes to whom we owe so much.

FISA

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we've been here before. In the 1920s, America spied on its citizens and arrested thousands because they advocated for change. In the 1950s, America black-listed innocent Americans whose only crime was to run afoul of Senator Joe McCarthy. In the 1970s, America illegally spied on people in the civil rights and the Vietnam antiwar movements, including Dr. Martin Luther King.

The transgressions were so egregious that a courageous Senator Frank Church from Idaho led a search for truth and affirmation of freedom. In the end, the Congress passed FISA, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. FISA provides a swift and certain means for America to meet any threat without threatening America's freedoms. But this administration seems it cannot defend America without demolishing America's freedoms.

The President wants the Congress to undermine FISA with new legislation that would make it easy to spy on any American, just like the 1920s, the 1950s and the 1970s. These are not the good old days, and I oppose any attempt to use fear to subvert freedom.

We can keep America safe without sacrificing America in the process. I urge my colleagues to remember why FISA was created and why we should not neuter it in the near future.

TRADE AND GLOBALIZATION ASSISTANCE ACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the House passed the Trade and Globalization Assistance Act of 2007, and I was very proud to support this legislation. And I thank Chairman RANGEL and, of course, Chairman MILLER for their insight.

A couple of years ago, when we moved on the permanent normal trade relations with China, I worked with the then-Clinton administration to craft

an executive order that addressed the question of the loss of jobs when there was a trade bill. We thought that this particular executive order could lay the groundwork for providing for small businesses and those various sectors of the country that would lose their employment or their economic opportunity. Well, look at the trade imbalance now. This is a forthright bill that expands the opportunities for service workers, manufacturers, insists on enrollment opportunities, and it is a good start.

I don't know what the journey will be on future trade bills, but America has to start standing up for its own workers, its own regions, and making sure that small businesses do not lose their economic opportunity simply because we want to engage in globalization. Globalization may be good, but Americans have to be protected, and I was very glad to vote for this legislation today.

□ 1745

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 3920, TRADE AND GLOBALIZATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 3920, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE VIETNAM WAR REDUX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the first national protest demonstration against the Vietnam War occurred 40 years ago this month. About 100,000 Americans came to Washington in October 1967 to protest that foreign policy disaster.

Vietnam was a war of choice. We invaded a country that never attacked us. We sent our troops into the middle of a civil war that had nothing to do with us. We went to war in a country whose culture or history we did not understand. We had no exit strategy.

We went to war after Congress authorized the President to do so. We